



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201  
RESEARCH CENTER

October 27, 1964

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OCT 29 1964

R. W. ROUSH  
M. A. LEVGARD  
B. H. GROVES

Mr. R. W. Roush, Jr.  
Trustee - President  
Downers Grove Sanitary District  
5120 Main Street  
Downers Grove, Illinois

Dear Mr. Roush:

In your letter of October 19, 1964, you enclosed a report from your consultant, Baxter & Woodman, concerning the effects of adding our waste water to the sanitary sewer. The consultant's report discusses in a general way the effects of toxic ions on a sewage treatment plant without reference to the specifics of the situation and without reference to a perponderance of literature on this subject. An examination of the literature on the subject of effect of copper, chromium and cyanide on the treatment of sewage will show that a sewage treatment plant will not be adversely affected when comparing the toxic levels of these ions to those quantities which are found in the discharge from our plant. Further, that the concentrations and weights of copper, cyanide and chromate ions found in sewage not receiving plating wastes may be as much as 100 fold higher than those which would be contributed by our plant waste to the sewage flow (See my letter to you of July 6, 1964.).

I hope that it is clear that the soluble oil coolant system is a closed system and does not (and is not intended to) flow into the sewer. Only free oil may be found in the flow which is being discussed for discharge into the sanitary sewer. We would, of course, remove the free oil before discharge into the sewer. It should also be made clear that the spent plating liquors are trucked away from the site by a company which treats these wastes. With reference to spillages, we are prepared to install an automatic flow diversion system. This system would divert accidental spillages to a holding basin. Certainly, we are in agreement that the discharge from our plant should be monitored. We are prepared to analyze our waste regularly and report such analysis to the District.

# REX CHAINBELT INC

Mr. R. W. Roush, Jr.

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We are now in the process of documenting the basis of our conclusions and wish to present this documentation to you and your consultant. Generalizing on the effect of toxic ions is necessary and judicial where there is a lack of evidence. However, much research has been performed and much has been written to show that within reasonable limits a sewage plant can handle a waste such as ours without detrimental effects on its operation and performance. We will be prepared to show that we are by orders of magnitude within these safe limits.

It is not reasonable that we should have to treat this waste ourselves to meet those requirements for discharge to St. Joseph's Creek indicated to us by the Illinois State Water Board when a sewage plant is available and can handle these wastes. The economical and technical aspects of this situation lead to the conclusion that for all concerned this waste can be handled by your plant with safety and with economy. We have spent considerable sums of money to improve the discharge of our waste water and are willing to spend additional amounts to help eliminate this pollution problem. We feel as a taxpayer and an industry which provides income to the citizens within the District that we deserve considerations not based on some generalizations, but on the specifics of the situation. We are willing to install monitoring equipment and "fail-safe" diversion equipment to provide adequate assurance that accidental spills will not enter the sewer.

After we have completed gathering and organizing the information from a literature search, we will request to meet with you for further consideration of our request for permission to permit our waste to flow into the sanitary sewer. I know your interest in providing treatment services to all individuals and organizations within the District will make you want to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely yours,



William J. Katz, Ph.D.  
Technical Director--Process

WJK:ps

cc: Mr. C. W. Klassen  
SWB, Chicago  
DuPage County Health Dept.  
Mr. R. S. Esposito, Bearing Division